GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1029
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY CHENNAI
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai has carried out various technology development activities during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology has also taken up the Technology Research Programme of Polymetallic Nodule; and

(d) if so, the present status of the programme?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai has taken up various activities inter alia pertaining to technology development for low temperature thermal desalination, gas hydrates, exploration of polymetallic nodules and instrumentation.

(c) & (d) NIOT has designed, developed and demonstrated successfully a prototype shallow bed mining system capable of working up to a depth of 500 meters, an artificial nodule laying system for working at depth of 517 meters and an in-situ soil sampler to measure the soil bearing strength upto water depth of 5200 m.